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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: OKADA et al.

Filed: September 27, 2001

For: Hyrdogen Storage Metal Alloy, Method for Absorption and Release of Hydrogen
Using the Said Alloy and Hydrogen Battery Using the Said Method

DOCKET: SHIG C10804

The Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made to the
above-identified application prior to examination.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 6, 9, 13 and 16 to read as follows:

6. (Amended) The hydrogen storage metal alloy according to claim 3,
wherein the tissue structure of the above-mentioned suitably adjusted hydrogen
storage metal alloy is of a body-centered cubic structure mono phase without any
spinodal decomposition phase or has a body-centered cubic structure together with
only a minimum spinodal decomposition phase with is unavoidably produced.

9. (Amended) The method for absorbing and releasing hydrogen according
to claim 7, wherein the composition ratio of the constituent metals for the alloy is
adjusted to an appropriate range in order to reduce the stability of the hydrogen
occluded in the alloy during the low-pressure plateau region or the lower plateau

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